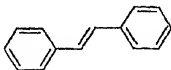


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method for improving or enhancing the appearance of the teeth, in particular for whitening of the teeth, which method comprises application to the teeth of a dental composition comprising a fluorescent whitening agent selected from derivatives of stilbene having the following chromophore system:

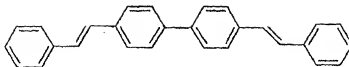


as the sole tooth whitening agent in the composition, or with one or more additional tooth whitening agents selected from

- a) abrasive agents effective in physically removing stains from the tooth enamel;
- b) chlorite oxidising or bleaching agents;
- c) enzymatic systems; and
- d) chelating agents;

and a dentally acceptable diluent or carrier.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for improving or enhancing the appearance of the teeth, in particular for whitening of the teeth, which method comprises application to the teeth of a dental composition comprising a fluorescent whitening agent selected from bis-styrylbiphenyl compounds having the following chromophore system:

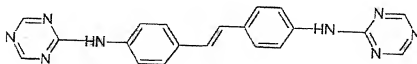


and a dentally acceptable diluent or carrier, optionally with the application to the teeth, either simultaneously or sequentially, of an additional tooth whitening agent.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the composition is formulated as a toothpaste, mouthrinse, toothgel, tooth paint or dental gel.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent absorbs light of wavelength less than 380nm and re-emits light in the wavelength range 400nm to 450nm.

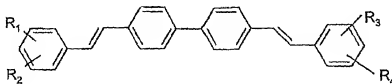
37. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is selected from bis-triazineamine derivatives of compounds having the following chemical backbone:



38. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of disodium 4,4'-bis[(4-anilino-6-morpholino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate, disodium 4,4'-

bis[4-anilino-6-(N-methyl-N-2-hydroxyethyl)amino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl] amino}stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate, and disodium 4,4'-bis[(4-anilino-6-methylamino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)aminostilbene-2,2'-disulfonate.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is a bis-styrylbiphenyl compound of the general formula:



in which R₁ is -SO₃M and R₂, R₃ and R₄, which may be the same or different, are selected from R₅, -SO₃M, halogen (particularly Cl), -CN, -OC(=O)R₅, -OOR₅, -SO₂N(R₅)₂ and -CON(R₅)₂, wherein R₅ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₈ alkyl and M represents hydrogen or a Group I metal, eg Na, K or Li.

40. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 39, wherein R₃ is the same as R₁, and R₂ and R₄ are the same and are selected from R₅, halogen, -CN, -OC(=O)R₅, -OOR₅, -SO₂N(R₅)₂ and -CON(R₅)₂.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is 4,4'-bis(2-sulfostryl)biphenyl or a salt or other soluble derivative thereof.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 41, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is disodium 4,4'-bis(2-sulfostryl)biphenyl.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the concentration of fluorescent whitening agent in the composition is less than 1,000 ppm.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43, wherein the concentration of fluorescent whitening agent in the composition is in the range 50ppm to 500ppm.

45. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43, wherein the concentration of fluorescent whitening agent in the composition is less than 100ppm.

46. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 45, wherein the concentration of fluorescent whitening agent in the composition is in the range 5ppm to 50ppm.

47. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the method further comprises the application of an additional tooth whitening agent.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 47, wherein application of the additional tooth whitening agent is simultaneous with application of the fluorescent whitening agent.

49. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 47, wherein the composition comprises an additional tooth whitening agent.

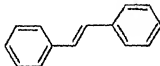
50. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the composition comprises a bleaching agent as an additional tooth whitening agent.

51. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 50, wherein the bleaching agent is a peroxide.

52. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide or a compound that generates hydrogen peroxide in use.

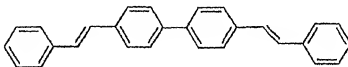
53. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 50, wherein the bleaching agent is a chlorite bleaching agent.

54. (Previously Presented) A method for improving or enhancing the appearance of the teeth, in particular for whitening of the teeth, which method comprises application to the teeth of a dental composition comprising a fluorescent whitening agent selected from the group consisting of derivatives of stilbene having the following chromophore system:



and an additional tooth whitening agent wherein the method comprises the sequential application to the teeth of the additional tooth whitening agent followed by the fluorescent whitening agent.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent compounds have the following chromophore system:



56. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 54, wherein the additional tooth whitening agent is a bleaching agent.

57. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 56 wherein the bleaching agent is a peroxide.

58. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 57, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide or a compound that generates hydrogen peroxide in use.

59. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein one or more applications of the additional tooth whitening agent precede application of the fluorescent whitening agent.

60. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the fluorescent whitening agent is selected from the group consisting of disodium 4,4'-bis(2-sulfostyryl)biphenyl, 4,4'-bis(2-sulfostyryl)biphenyl, disodium 4,4'-bis(3-sulfo-4-chlorostyryl)biphenyl, disodium 4,4'-bis[(4-anilino-6-morpholino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate, disodium 4,4'-bis[(4-anilino-6-(N-methyl-N-2-hydroxyethyl)amino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate, and disodium 4,4'-bis[(4-anilino-6-methylamino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate.

61. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, comprising a first stage in which the additional tooth whitening agent is applied by a dental surgeon, and a second stage in which the fluorescent whitening agent and the additional tooth whitening agent are applied, simultaneously or sequentially, by the patient.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 61, wherein in the first stage the additional tooth whitening agent is applied first, followed by a fluorescent whitening agent.

63. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 60, wherein in the second stage, the additional tooth whitening agent and the fluorescent whitening agent are applied simultaneously.